



**Construction Advisory Group  
Centreville Streetscape Improvement  
Contract # 29-200-19 FAP# ERR-2009(27)**

**MEETING MINUTES – January 11, 2010**

**Date:** January 11, 2010  
**Time:** 1:30 PM  
**Location:** Odd Fellows Hall [above Wild Thyme]  
Centerville, Delaware 19807

**Present:**

Ms. Deborah Hudson – State Representative  
Ms. Gretchen Mercer – Centreville Civic Assoc.  
Ms. Leslie Kipp – Centreville Civic Assoc.  
Mr. Irv Hollingsworth – Centreville Civic Assoc.  
Mr. Jeff Niezgoda – DelDOT  
Mr. Harry Cooper – DelDOT  
Mr. Herbert Monsalud - DelDOT  
Ms. Brenda Reece - DelDOT  
Mr. Robert King - DelDOT

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 pm.

Bob informed group that this advisory group has been formed to receive information from state officials on construction activities such as: lane closures, traffic detours, impact on community, and other events of the Centreville Streetscape Improvement Project that might result due to an active construction site. Advisory group members (including area businesses, outdoor recreation organizations, civic associations, chambers of commerce, etc.) will also provide the community with a voice as to its needs and views on a one-to-one basis and report back to the community in general. Bob also requested that members should double check the contact information on the sign-in sheet for accuracy.

Harry Cooper opened the meeting by introducing himself as the Area Engineer in charge of the project and Herbert Monsalud as the Area Supervisor and the contact telephone number of 656-2404. He also noted to the group that work on the project had started on December 14, 2009.

Harry also explained that the project is experiencing a delay due to the discovery, during excavation, of a 6-inch steel pipe of an unknown origin near Snuff Mill and Centreville Roads. Construction cannot proceed until the ownership of the pipe is, and whether the line is active or abandoned. Much discussion ensued as to what the line would be for and its ownership. The construction team will test the line tomorrow to see if the line is



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active or not, and if not, they will remove the line. But until this has been determined, the construction remains “on-hold.”

There was a question as to who would pay for the costs incurred by this delay.  
Answer: the project is federally funded.

It was pointed out by a citizen that there was a gas line crossing Route 52 into PA which was part of a Columbia Gas company.

– FOLLOW-UP: The owner of the pipe turned out to be AT&T. It is a proposed Government Fiber Optic Line that runs from Rt.1 in PA to Orange and 2<sup>nd</sup> Street in Wilmington along Rt. 52.

The DelDOT design team is working to redesign the drainage pipes around the AT&T pipe. They should have the redesign for the section of drainage between Snuff Mill and Gregg Avenue completed by January 25<sup>th</sup>. In the meantime, our test hole contractor will be locating the AT&T line from Center Road to Center Meeting Road starting January 21<sup>st</sup>.

Harry also explained to the group that there has been some minor revisions to the project plans. However, all the changes are below the surface such as catch basins, etc., and would not be visual.

Jeff pointed out to the group that he had met with a citizen who had concerns about the mid-block crossing at Route 52 as well as the planned “bulb-outs” and landscaping. The citizen’s concerns related if this would create a visual impediment to his business. It was discussed with the group that large trees will not be planted and concerns rose about low shrubs having to be pruned on at least an annual basis. The concerned business owner suggest to Jeff: 1. Eliminate the crosswalk, 2. He wanted to know who approved it, 3. He suggested the possible elimination of the bulb-outs. Discussion ensued.

It was pointed out that the crosswalks has been in effect there for a long time, and the general consensus among the working group community members was that they did not want to eliminate the mid block crossing. Jeff will research this possibility and bring the results back to the group at a future meeting.

Discussion ensued about adjusting the work hours of the construction team to make up for the lost time. Gretchen will address the issue with the Civic Association and formulate a letter if such agreement can be reached. Gretchen will send a letter to Jeff



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Niezgoda confirming that village businesses and residents along with the Centreville Civic Association approve of changing the start work time to 7:30am. The letter will also confirm that the Farmer's Marker scheduled for each Thursday afternoon from May thru November will be relocated outside the village boundaries. This removes the necessity of complicated rearranging Thursday schedules on the part of the construction workers and also eliminates Saturday conflicts with village businesses. All other village activities such as Easter Egg Hunt, Concerts in the Park, Doggerel Day and the annual Christmas Party will take place either on weekends or else after 6pm and will have no effect on work schedules.

– FOLLOW-UP: A letter from the Centreville Civic Association was received at DelDOT on January 15<sup>th</sup> approving an extension in work hours.

Discussion then ensued regarding bicycle lane closures due to construction.

There was a request by one of the community members that when a worker poses a question to a business owner or member of the community that they identify themselves first. There was one occasion when one of the contractor's workers inquired to a business owner if they knew the origin of steel piping that was uncovered. The business owner did not know if they were speaking with one of the contractor's worker or DelDOT representative. All workers on the project will be advised to identify themselves when speaking with a citizen on issues regarding the project.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm with the next meeting scheduled for Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

**The monthly Centerville Streetscape Advisory Meetings will be held at 1:30 in the afternoon, on the second Monday of each month at the Odd Fellows Hall [above Wild Thyme] in Centreville.**

**NEXT MEETING:**

***Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> – at 1:30PM***